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DEQ approves additional 2012 Dow cleanup work

DEQ officials this week formally approved an additional 50 residential properties for dioxin testing this summer as part of Dow Chemical Company's remediation work in Midland neighborhoods.

The five-year effort to address dioxin-contaminated soils in Midland, approved by DEQ June 1, is progressing ahead of schedule, so the company officials applied to amend the plan to add more properties to this year's work.

Nearly all property owners scheduled for 2012 agreed to participate in the sampling program. All Properties that tested above the site-specific action level of 250 parts per trillion have been offered cleanup paid for by Dow.

The cleanup is part of corrective action work required under the company's Hazardous Waste Management Facility Operating License to address contamination as a result of airborne emissions from Dow's historic waste management practices.

Under the "adaptive management" provisions of the approved work plan, Dow proposed on July 13 to offer soil sampling at approximately 50 additional residential properties this summer. The DEQ approved the 2012 supplemental work on July 23. Any additional properties that test above the action level will be offered cleanup this fall.

Properties that test less than or equal to the action level do not require cleanup under Michigan law. All sampling and cleanup work is being done only with the consent of the property owner. The DEQ has been conducting oversight of this work.

The approved work plan, including the approved 2012 supplemental work proposal and related materials, are available online at www.michigan.gov/deqdioxin under "Midland Area Soil Cleanup." The website is updated regularly as work progresses.

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